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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: current realities and prospects, to be held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012

Guidelines and rules of procedure

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I. Introduction

1. At its sixty-fifth session, the General Assembly, by resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010, declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to intensify their efforts to continue to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61, annex) and to cooperate with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in updating it as necessary, with a view to using it as the basis for a plan of action for the Third International Decade.

2. Also at its sixty-sixth session, the General Assembly, by resolution 66/91 of 9 December 2011, approved the report of the Special Committee (A/66/23), including the programme of work envisaged for 2012, and requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and, among others, to conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars.

II. Place and dates of the seminar

3. The Pacific regional seminar will be held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012.

III. Purpose of the seminar

4. The purpose of the seminar is to enable the Special Committee to obtain the views of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, experts, members of civil society and other stakeholders in the process of decolonization who can assist the Special Committee in identifying policy approaches and practical ways that can be pursued in the United Nations decolonization process. The discussions at the seminar will assist the Special Committee in making a realistic analysis and evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, as well as the ways in which the United Nations system and the international community at large could enhance programmes of assistance to the Territories.

5. The contributions of the participants will serve as a basis for further consideration by the Special Committee at its substantive session, to be held in New York in June 2012 with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

IV. Agenda of the seminar

6. The agenda of the seminar is as follows:

1. The role of the Special Committee in facilitating the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories within the framework of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:

(a) Developing innovative approaches and new dynamics;

(b) Reinforcing constructive involvement between the Committee, the administering Powers and the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(c) Forging pragmatic partnerships on a case-by-case basis, leading to the full implementation of the decolonization process.

2. Current realities and prospects: perspectives of the Special Committee, the administering Powers and territorial Governments, as well as the views of experts and civil society:

(a) In the Pacific region's Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) In the Caribbean region's Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(c) In other regions' Non-Self-Governing Territories.

3. The role of the United Nations system in providing developmental assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

4. Current realities and prospects: recommendations on advancing the decolonization process.

V. Organization of the seminar

7. The following provisions will govern the organization of the seminar:

(a) The seminar will be organized by the Special Committee in accordance with the rules of procedure contained in the annex to the present guidelines;

(b) The seminar will be conducted by a delegation of the Special Committee consisting of the Chair and seven other members representing each of the regional groups within the Special Committee;

(c) The seminar may be attended by the following:

(i) Representatives of Member States;

(ii) Representatives of the host Government;

(iii) Representatives of the administering Powers;

(iv) Representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(v) A representative of the Secretary-General;

(vi) Representatives of concerned specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system;

(vii) Representatives of the organizations based in the region and the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(viii) Experts on Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Annex

Rules of procedure

Preamble

The regional seminar is held under the terms of General Assembly resolution 66/91 of 9 December 2011. The organization of the seminar and the conduct of its proceedings shall follow the general guidelines set out in the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.[a]

Rule 1
Responsibility for conducting the seminar

The seminar shall be organized by the Special Committee and conducted by the Chair of the Special Committee, with the assistance of the Bureau of the seminar (see rule 2 (a) below).

Rule 2
Officers of the seminar

(a) The Chair shall appoint two Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur of the seminar from among the participating members of the Special Committee. These officers shall be given specific responsibilities by the Chair and shall constitute the Bureau of the seminar.

(b) The Chair shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the seminar, direct its discussions, ensure observance of the present rules, accord the right to speak, pose questions and announce decisions.

(c) If the Chair is unable to be present at a meeting or any part thereof, a Vice-Chair shall preside over the meeting.

Rule 3
Secretariat

(a) The secretariat of the Special Committee shall service the seminar.

(b) The secretariat shall be responsible for all necessary arrangements regarding the organization of the seminar.

Rule 4
Languages

The working languages of the seminar shall be English and Spanish.

[a] A/520/Rev.17.

Rule 5
Conduct of business

(a) Decisions shall, as a rule, be taken by consensus. Should a vote be required, only representatives of the Special Committee attending the seminar shall be entitled to vote.

(b) Any procedural question with regard to the conduct of business of the seminar not covered by the present rules shall be decided upon by the Chair in consultation with the Bureau of the seminar.

Rule 6
Participation in the seminar

Participation in the seminar shall be restricted to the persons to whom formal invitations have been addressed by the Chair of the Special Committee in accordance with the related decision of the General Assembly[b] and whose names appear on the official list of participants drawn up by the Chair.

Rule 7
Debates and publicity concerning the seminar

(a) The meetings of the seminar shall be held in public unless the Chair decides that exceptional circumstances require that a meeting be held in private.

(b) Statements to the information media shall be made by the Chair. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat shall be responsible for the dissemination of information on the seminar, including the issuance of press releases covering meetings of the seminar held in public.

(c) Participating organizations shall be represented by the person so invited (see rule 6 above), who may make one general statement on issues within the purview of the Committee's mandate and pertaining to those Territories under its consideration during the course of the seminar.

(d) The Chair may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker.

(e) During the course of the discussion, the Chair, with the consent of the seminar, may declare the list of speakers closed. When there are no speakers, the Chair shall, with the consent of the seminar, declare the debate closed.

Rule 8
Records

The seminar shall have sound recordings of its proceedings, which shall be retained in the archives of the United Nations in accordance with established practice.

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[b] See A/56/61, annex, para. 22 (c).

Rule 9
Report

The Rapporteur of the seminar shall prepare the draft report on the proceedings of the seminar. Members of the Special Committee who participate in the seminar will provide conclusions and recommendations to the Special Committee for consideration at its substantive session.